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31. (New) A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions which, when executed by a computing system, cause the computing system to implement a method according to claim 1.

REMARKS

This response is submitted to an Office Action received December 5, 2000, wherein claims, 18 and 19 were objected to, while claims 1-16, 18 and 19 were rejected. With this response, Applicant has amended claim 18 to simply remove the lingering informality, traverses the substantive rejections of claims 1-16 and 19, and offers new claims 20-31. Support for the new claims can be found in the original specification, figures and/or claims. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-31 are currently pending. In light of the following amendment and subsequent remarks, reconsideration of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested.

Request for Clarification

Applicant notes that although the Office Action Summary (i.e., page 1 of the Action) denotes that all 19 claims were rejected, only claims 1-16, 18 and 19 received specific rejection(s) in the body of the Action. That is, claim 17 was not specifically rejected in this Action. Accordingly, the Examiner intended to reject claim 17, Applicant respectfully requests further clarification to enable Applicant to fully respond to such rejection.

Claim Objections

In **paragraph 1** of the Action, claims 18 and 19 were objected to as containing informalities. In response, Applicant has selectively amended claim 18 merely to correct the lingering informalities identified therein. Insofar as such amendment corrects an otherwise narrowing flaw in the claim language, such amendment effectively broadens the scope of the claim by correcting a potential §112, second paragraph issue that may have limited the claims. In any event, such amendment was not intended to, nor does it serve to narrow the claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection thereto be withdrawn.

Drawings

Applicant acknowledges the informal nature of the drawings and will provide formal drawings prior to issuance.

§102(b)/(e) Rejections

In **paragraph 3** of the Action, claims 1, 4 and 12-15 were rejected as being anticipated by a patent issued to Iu (USP 5,293,229). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of such claims./

The Iu Reference

The Iu reference is generally drawn to a video data compression system. More particularly, Iu teaches a video encoding system which uses processes groups of fields of video data such that a predicted field is encoded using at least one anchor field *which has previously*

been encoded and which is closer in time to the predicted field than any other *previously* encoded field (see, e.g., col. 2, lines 57-65; Figs 4 and 5). In this regard, Iu is illustrative of the prior art and the convention approach to motion estimation of using as much information as available to support encoding of each of the fields of a predicted frame. With reference to Figs. 2-9, Iu depicts a number of field prediction techniques, each of which illustrate that the field being encoded is predicted from a plurality of fields of multiple parity (i.e., even and odd). That is, in each of the illustrated example embodiments of the Iu reference, Iu discloses that field prediction of a field (e.g., P₆) is based on at least multiple prior fields of disparate parity (e.g., I₀ and I₁ of Fig. 4; I₁ and P₄ of Fig. 5; etc.). Indeed, with regard to the prediction of B-frames, Iu teaches the use of a plurality of previous and subsequent fields of multiple parity are used to predict a particular field of the B-frame (see, e.g., Figs 2-9, wherein each field of a B frame is predicted using at least a corresponding field from previous and subsequent reference (I and/or P) frames).

In contradistinction to the teachings of the Iu reference claims 1, 12 and 18 are directed to even-parity field prediction. In this regard, rejected claim 1, for example, includes the feature of:

utilizing *even-parity field prediction* to predict content
of each of a plurality of fields of the predicted frame from
corresponding fields of the anchor frame (*emphasis added*)

Well-settled patent law requires that claim terms be interpreted in light of the plain meaning of the language as used by those skilled in the art, limited only by use within the specification. As used herein, even-parity field prediction comprises prediction of field content from either a past

or a future field of like-parity, i.e., even fields only used to predict even fields and odd fields only used to predict odd fields (see, e.g., page 20, line 18 through page 12; and Fig. 12).

That is, contrary to the teachings of Iu and the conventional video encoding practice using as many sources of data as possible (i.e., even and odd fields of previous and subsequent frames) to encode a predicted field, the claimed invention of rejected claims 1, 12 and 18 merely relies on even-parity field prediction (i.e., only the corresponding like-parity field of a past **or** future reference frame). In this regard, utilization of even-parity field prediction flies in the face of the Iu reference as well as conventional video encoding practice.

By specifically teaching the use of even **and** odd fields of **at least** past reference frames to predict content of a field of a predicted frame (see, e.g., Figs. 2-9 and associated text), Applicant respectfully asserts that the **Iu reference actually teaches away from** that which is claimed in rejected claims 1, 12 and 18. By teaching away from the claimed invention of rejected claims 1, 12, and 18, Applicant respectfully submits that the Iu reference cannot reasonably be interpreted as anticipating or rendering obvious such claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102(b), (e) rejection of claims 1 and 12 be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that rejected claims 4 and 13-15 are dependent on patentable base claims 1 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, by virtue of at least the dependence on such patentable base claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 4 and 13-15, as selectively amended, are likewise patentable over the Iu reference in accordance with at least the foregoing distinguishing argument(s). Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the §102(b), (e) rejection of such claims be withdrawn.

§103 Rejections

In **paragraph 4** of the Action, claims 2, 3, 5-11, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected as being unpatentable over the Iu reference in view of a patent issued to Eifreig et al (USP 5,991,447). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of such claims.

Without the need to further characterize the Eifreig reference, Applicant notes that the Eifreig reference is not cited as teaching, nor does it teach the limitations in the Iu reference identified above. More particularly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Eifreig reference fails to disclose or suggest the use of even-parity field prediction to predict content of a predicted field. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 12 and 18 are patentable over the Iu reference, alone or in combination with the Eifreig reference.

Insofar as claims 2, 3, 5-11, 16 and 19 are dependent on patentable base claims 1, 12 or 18, respectively, Applicant respectfully asserts that such dependent claims are similarly patentable over the Iu and/or Eifreig references by virtue of at least this dependency. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-11, 16 and 19 be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance, and earnestly awaits notice thereof. **In an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned counsel for the Applicant to discuss any further issues preventing allowance of the currently pending claims.**

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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